

January 14, 2000

# CARA Improves Property Rights!!

Dear Colleague:

While you may have received brightly colored flyers about the Conservation and Reinvestment Act's (CARA) impact upon property rights, reality is more easily read in black and white. The fact is, CARA not only protects private property rights in several provisions, but makes improvements upon current law in several other provisions.

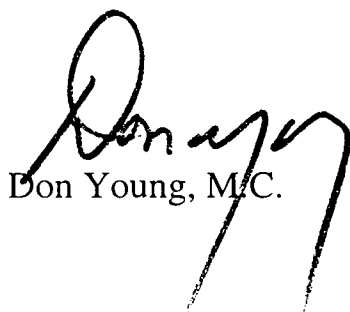
H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA) is landmark conservation legislation that was ordered to be reported from the House Resources Committee on November 10, 1999 by a bipartisan vote of 37-12. The goal of CARA is to reinvest revenue from nonrenewable resources into renewable resources of valuable conservation programs and our coastal communities. **All 50 states and territories benefit from CARA.** This is accomplished while protecting the rights of private property owners and not creating incentives for new oil and gas development.

Following, are some of the key protections that not only make CARA a sound conservation package, but protect the rights of landowners. There is not enough room on this page to list all the protections included in CARA, so please visit CARA's website (<http://www.house.gov/resources/cara/>) to read about the protections we are unable to include in this letter.

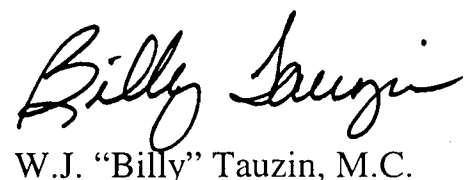
- ★ Transactions will be carried out with willing sellers. CARA prohibits the government from using adverse condemnation to acquire lands -- unless specifically authorized by Congress.
- ★ The Administration must seek to use exchanges and conservation easements as alternatives to fee-simple acquisition.
- ★ Congress must specifically approve each Land and Water Conservation Fund project.
- ★ The Congressional representatives, Governor, local government officials and public (via a widely distributed local newspaper) must be notified of proposed acquisitions.
- ★ CARA restricts the federal governments regulatory ability over private lands.
- ★ CARA specifically protects State water rights.
- ★ CARA provides up to \$200 million in additional funding for payment in-lieu of taxes (PILT) and Refuge Revenue Sharing.

The Resources Committee expects to file CARA's report when Congress returns at the end of January. **After the report is filed, we will not be able to add cosponsors.** Please do not miss the opportunity to become a cosponsor of this historic conservation legislation. **If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a cosponsor, please contact Cherie Sexton (5-9297).**

Sincerely,



Don Young, M.C.



W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, M.C.